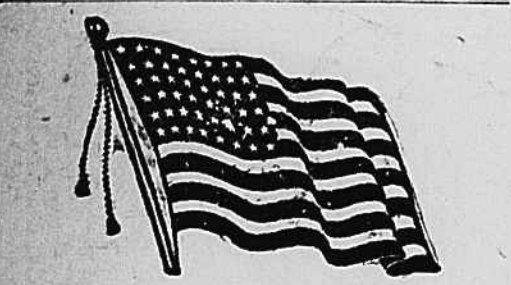


The West Virginian
"THE PAPER THAT GOES HOME."
PUBLISHED DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAY
by the Fairmont Printing and Publishing Company.
Publication Office, Monroe Street.
W. J. WIEGEL, General Manager.
JAMES C. HERBERT, Editor.
A. RAY MAPEL, Advertising Manager.
CHARLES V. REDIC, Circulation Manager.
J. MONROE BOYER, Superintendent.
MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.
The Associated Press is exclusively entitled to the use for publication of all news dispatches credited to it or not otherwise credited in this newspaper and also the local news published herein. All rights of reproduction of special dispatches herein are also reserved.
TELEPHONES—1105, 1106, 1107. All departments reached through private exchange.
Foreign Advertising Representative, ROBERT E. WARD, 125 Fifth Avenue, New York; 5 S. Wabash Ave., Chicago.
SUBSCRIPTION RATES. One year \$5.00; six months \$3.00; three months \$1.50; one month .60c.
BY CARRIER—(In Fairmont) One year \$7.00; six months \$4.00; one month .60c; one week .15c. Per copy three cents.
BY CARRIER—(Outside of Fairmont) One month, 75c; one week, 15c. By carrier Three Cents.
All subscriptions payable in advance.
When asking for change in address give old as well as new address.
Entered at the Postoffice at Fairmont, West Virginia, as second class matter.
IF YOU DON'T GET YOUR PAPER CALL "WESTERN UNION."
Subscribers on our carrier routes failing to get The West Virginian any evening should call "WESTERN UNION," state the fact and give name and residence and a messenger will deliver a paper to your door at once. There is no charge to the subscriber for this service.
WEDNESDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 26, 1917.



RECOGNITION FOR OPERATORS.

FUEL ADMINISTRATOR GARFIELD'S decision to test the field distribution system in this coal region to the exclusion of all others in the country is marked recognition of the effectiveness of the organization maintained by the operators of Central West Virginia.

For some time this newspaper has been urging that the first step the coal interests should take in the movement to protect their own interests was to organize strong regional or district operators' associations and to have these associations cooperate, through a national organization, with the government. Happily for the local operators the more wide awake of them have been working together in the Central West Virginia Coal Operators' association for about four years. When the crisis came they had a thoroughly systematized organization which as soon as the National association was formed could take its place as the most important subordinate body of coal producers in the nation.

Conditions have been very bad as a result of the transportation difficulties, and some operators may have had their doubts about the value of the local organization, but the appointment of Secretary Lawson ought to make it apparent to every one that all the time work of the utmost importance has been going on. As a result of the bond of confidence which has sprung up between the Fuel administration and the Central West Virginia association this important experiment is to be tried out here, and if it succeeds the mines in this region will get a long start over all the rest in the country, for they will be going right ahead turning out coal under the new scheme while in other regions the Fuel administrator seeks a district distributor who can work in harmony with the operators. In some instances he is pretty certain to place distributors who are not at all adapted to the position. This because through lack of real organization the operators are unable to guide the Fuel administration.

Just how well the new scheme will work out even in a region as well organized as this one is cannot be foreseen at this time. The only thing that can be said about it with any degree of certainty is that Dr. Garfield did the right thing when he turned the work over to D. R. Lawson. His long service as secretary of the Central West Virginia Coal Operators' association and his splendid grasp upon the transportation features of the local situation make it certain that Mr. Lawson will develop every possibility for easing the fuel crisis which the project contains. Another encouraging feature of the outlook is that the hearty endorsement of both the experiment and the appointment of Mr. Lawson, which the Executive board of the Operators' association gave at their meeting Saturday, make it certain that the whole souled cooperation with the government which has characterized the coal producers of this region from the beginning will be continued in this new movement.

CONGRATULATIONS.

BOTH Mayor Bowen and Chief of Police Harr deserve to be congratulated upon the effectiveness of Saturday night's raids upon the gambling joints of the city. It was a fine clean up and it gave great satisfaction to every Fairmont citizen who is at all jealous of the good name of the city.

Gambling is forbidden by law, and that ought to settle its status no matter what opinions may be held regarding the morality, or lack of morality, of a card game with a

RUFF STUFF
Nice little present the gamblers left in the City's stocking.
Three hundred and ninety dollars will help a lot meeting the next police pay roll.
Ought to be more of this sort of thing.
Wouldn't be so much kicking if the police force was paying its way.
Irish agitators are said to be working with the I. W. W. and Bolsheviks to upset the whole world.
That ought to put a stop to the supply of American funds for the support of Irish agitation.
The company these Irish are keeping is an offense to the race.
Served turkey in the jail yesterday. Folks inside were luckier than many on the outside.
The Weather Man is a good old scout.

little stake on the side to give it zest. But aside from that, at a time like the present when the industries are crying for skilled and unskilled workmen every form of pastime which encourages idleness and provides a parasitic livelihood for a number of physically capable men should be suppressed with an iron hand.

Get after them, Mr. Mayor. These pests have lied to you and imposed upon your good nature until they do not deserve the slightest consideration from you. On the other hand you owe it to the mines and factories hereabouts to suppress not only all the gambling joints but the bootlegging and the loafing. If you do that you will be entitled to and will receive public gratitude.

SAVINGS CERTIFICATES NEXT.

WITH the holidays and the interests which they give rise to out of the way the local campaign in favor of thrift and war savings certificates will begin next week in Marion county, and it will be interesting to watch what sort of a response is made locally to this newest financial effort of the government.

In England where this form of war financing has been given a thorough practical test great sums of money have been realized by the government, and the eagerness with which people who can afford to save only small sums have turned to it has been surprising even in a country where savings banks and ownership in the shares of a wide variety of cooperative undertakings has long been a familiar part of the life of what they call over there the lower classes.

The first issue of savings certificates in this country is limited to two billions of dollars, maturity value, and it is impossible to guess what amount of this will be taken. It is altogether probable, however, that the savings certificates will attract investors with financial resources which would enable them to aid the government in the older ways, for the interest is compounded quarterly and the four per cent multiplies with the most gratifying rapidity.

The savings certificates are also tax free, but the really rich who otherwise would swamp the treasury in their eagerness to buy such valuable and highly remunerative securities are barred by a provision in the act which makes it unlawful for one individual to own more than \$1,000 worth of them, maturity value.

The body of an American sentry captured by a party of Germans was found with the throat cut, according to official reports. About the only hope Germany has of favorable terms at the peace conference lies in our detachment from European interests and prejudices. If the barbarians in the German army supply us with an interest in the form of the Uncle Sam will sit in with a stony face and a heart, and Germany will have to pay to the last pfennig.

It is officially reported in Petrograd that the Germans are transferring great bodies of troops from the East to the West fronts. This has been going on for some time and the aggregate of men taken away from the Russian front must be large. The problem on the hands of the German General Staff would be correspondingly urgent if the Bolsheviks were to be bowled over and a real government take charge in Russia.

Government agents are beginning to turn in reports that there is a plot afoot in various countries at war with Germany to overthrow the existing governments, and the basis of it is said to be the organizations maintained by the I. W. W., the Bolsheviks and the Irish agitators. That is a fine line up, and if the Germans think they can start such things without having them come home to roost they are very much mistaken.

Senator Francis G. Newlands' death, which occurred very suddenly in Washington Monday evening, is a genuine loss to the nation, for no man in Congress had given more real study to the railroad problems of the nation. Coming when it does the passing of this statesman may have an important influence upon the future of the transportation interests.

There was no fraternizing anywhere on the West front yesterday, according to the dispatches from Europe. There was a good deal of it the first war Christmas and some of it last year, but the German method of warfare has driven all friendliness out of the hearts of the British and the French. Germany will be a lone-some nation when it is all over.

Christmas here was a quiet day, and a pleasant one. But for the occasional glimpse of a uniform on the streets there was nothing to suggest that the country is at war. May it never hit us any harder than it did on this our first war Christmas in over half a century.

SHORT AND SNAPPY

Crass stupidity and inexcusable incompetence must be responsible for the outbreak of smallpox in the girls' dormitory at Marshall College.—Parkersburg Sentinel.

A German leader says that ninety-nine per cent of the German people want peace. So they let the one per cent control the situation and then vehemently deny that they are not a free nation. And there you are.—Clarksburg Telegram.

From the way the ball players are joining the colors, it may not only be necessary to cut down the schedule but the player limit as well, or, perhaps, cut out the league season altogether.—Parkersburg News.

Congress evidently has determined on having an interesting session this time.—Charleston Mail.

The prohibitionists will only have to gain eight states, while the wets must retain thirteen damp states to win.—Wheeling Intelligencer.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
LABOR HAS BEEN LOYAL.
CHARLESTON, W. Va., Dec. 22.—(Editor The West Virginian.)—Industrial workers in West Virginia are entitled to the deep admiration and fervid thanks of the government for their unequalled loyalty. Although tens of thousands are engaged in production vital to Allied success, no serious strikes have occurred and disturbances have been of short duration and of minor importance. Especially are the eighty thousand mine workers entitled to the state's good will. Miles of gondolas loaded to capacity are side-tracked in plain view for lack of motive power. Engines are loaded as if by magic. A coal famine cannot be marked up against the coal miner. This is equally true of operatives turning out war material; they are in no way blamable if transportation facilities are paralyzed so as to take four times as long now to move a loaded car ten miles as it took before the war.
AH may look with equal pity upon the loafer and scheming profiteer, sure that each will meet the fate they so

OUTBURSTS OF EVERETT TRUE
(BY CONDO)
MAH SLEE-CER
R-R-R-ROCKED
IN THAH
CR-R-R-RADLE
OF THAH
DEE-E-E-E
STOP! I'VE HEARD IT SAID THAT SINGING MAKES THE SOLDIERS FIGHT BETTER—YOUR EFFORTS CONVINCE ME!!!

richly deserve. Gold equally stained with blood and tears will bring sorrow and ruin in the end. The man with ill-gotten gains growing out of this war is as surely marked as the bank notes are numbered. Labor will slow up in West Virginia for one day only—Christmas—the next day will find the workers producing the normal output.
Labor will enter the new year at peace with employer and with only one resolution. Victory for the Allied cause in 1918. To this end labor will work without remitting toil and with full knowledge that in this war as in all wars it will have to carry the heaviest burden and pay the costliest price. Labor will make the supreme sacrifice inspired by the radiance of the future, sure of its power to destroy all caste except the caste of humanity and conscious of its ability to dictate terms that will insure freedom and peace of the world.
SAM'L B. MONTGOMERY, Commissioner of Labor.

Editorial Comment on Current Subjects

DEFENDS BITUMINOUS OPERATORS.

From the Coal Trade Journal.
J. D. A. Morrow, general secretary of the National Coal Association, has written the following letter to Samuel O. Dunn, editor of the Railway Age Gazette, in response to a recent editorial in that publication:
In your edition of November 30th you published an editorial entitled 'The Coal Situation—A National Menace,' which merits a word of reply. The editorial is an attack on the Fuel administration, the coal producers of the United States and on the National Coal Association. We feel certain that your sense of fairness would hardly have let you make some of the categorical charges you do make had you first informed yourself of the true conditions. Kindly permit me to call your attention to a few facts that we think should have been before you.

In the first place you say that we have attacked the railroad. Not at all. The nation finds itself short of coal in time of war. Official records show that the lack of railroad cars is the principal cause of the shortage. We have merely called attention publicly to this condition. We are convinced that this is the quickest way to remedy the shortage, and that knowing the facts, the people will insist that effective measures be taken immediately to relieve an intolerable situation.
In reciting the facts we have carefully avoided "attacking" the railroads. In our statement of November 28th to which you have referred, we said that the "National Coal Association recognizes that the railroads are congested and crowded with freight far beyond anything ever before experienced by

the railroads in their present congested condition to supply the mines with an adequate number of cars for loading. The National Coal Association is endeavoring to co-operate with railway officials, the Fuel Administration and the Priorities committee in finding a remedy for the situation."
In announcing the appointment of our Traffic Manager, November 18th, we said: "The task of co-operating with the railroads to provide sufficient cars for the loading of 500,000,000 tons of bituminous coal annually has been delegated by the National Coal Association to John Callahan." * * * and "In carrying out this work Mr. Callahan will endeavor to assist the various governmental agencies involved, and the railroad companies in meeting the transportation demands of the coal industry."
It is the intention of the National Coal Association to continue to state facts of interest to the public in connection with coal supply and production from time to time. It is also our intention to continue to the utmost the work we have already begun of co-operating with the railroads in meeting transportation problems relating to fuel.
You charge the National Coal Association with being founded to "produce misinformation." You appear to have based this verdict on the circumstance that the Association stated that the less of coal production on account of transportation deficiencies in the week ending November 17th was 2,000,000 tons. We admit that our statement was based on incomplete records, but the conservatism of our estimate is clearly shown by the announcement of the United States Geological Survey that the correct figures were over 2,500,000 tons.
We have been equally conservative in other statements. Hence we have uniformly been more than fair to the railroads whenever we have had to speak of them in connection with the coal shortage. Moreover, if we influenced the Fuel Administrator to ask for priority and preference for coal shipments, it was only because the facts we presented clearly indicated the need of just such action. Since the chairman of the Priorities committee has made an ineffectual attempt to grant such a preference, we wonder if even you may not have at least a suspicion that the National Coal Association has been giving out facts instead of "misinformation."

You accuse the coal operators of "want of diplomacy and capacity in dealing with their labor," etc. What of the railroads? We wonder if you have forgotten in so short a time the Adamson law and the events that led up to its passage.
You attempt to lay upon the coal operators the blame for the coal shortage. Here again we wish to refer you to the official records which are open to the public. The reports of the Federal Trade Commission and the United States Geological Survey indicate that the coal operators have furnished the nation with men and equipment at the mines to produce 700,000,000 tons of bituminous coal annually. The output this year will be some 540,000,000 tons. It is true that fires, floods, accidents, breakages and labor difficulties have

caused the loss of some coal that might have been mined, but the official figures indicate that very nearly 200,000,000 tons were not produced because of transportation deficiencies. Under such conditions doesn't it seem rather futile and absurd to talk of the operators' failure to produce some millions of tons of coal? What could have been done with it when the roads couldn't transport what actually was mined?
We note that you have distributed your editorial among the newspapers, and that a number of them have reproduced it. We trust that your sense of fairness will impel you not only to publish this letter, but to see that it is also sent to the newspapers that published your editorial.
Very truly yours,
NATIONAL COAL ASSOCIATION,
(Signed) J. D. A. MORROW, General Secretary.

By reason of thorough distribution with the direct trade in the United States and lower selling costs, reduced prices are now possible for
Eckman's Alternative
FOR THROAT AND LUNGS
Stomachic, Cooling and Colic
No Alcohol, Narcotics or Habit-forming Drug
\$2 Size \$10 Size
Now \$1.50 Now 80 Cts.
Eckman Laboratory, Philadelphia.

See Your Dollars Pile up for Christmas Here's the Way to Get Them Join Our Christmas Savings Club

We are ready now for the enrollment of members. Regular date for starting the club is Dec. 17th. It offers an exceptional opportunity for you to accumulate a fund for Christmas or other uses.
IT'S FREE! NO FEES! NO FINES! NOTHING TO LOSE!

Here's the Plan Come and tell us what class you want to join (you may join as many classes as you wish) and pay the first week's amount. We will give you a patented deposit bank card and full instructions. Then each week you pay in the proper amount for the required number of weeks and receive a check before Christmas for the amount you have saved.
Our Christmas Savings Club SYSTEMATIZES YOUR SAVINGS. It's a cooperative plan. "In union there is strength." "Many hands make light work." So with this club. You get the benefit of a great organization enjoying all the advantages of the most approved banking system.

See How Your Savings Grow

The 1c Class will amount to	\$12.75
The 2c class will amount to	\$25.50
The 5c class will amount to	\$63.75
The 10c class will amount to	\$127.05

We have the above classes in reducing amounts; also the 10c, 25c, 50c, \$1.00 and \$2.00 straight weekly payment classes.

You May Join Now
You may join as many classes as you wish.
If for any reason you should not keep up your payments YOU WILL GET BACK EVERY CENT PAID IN. You may pay in advance if you wish. JOIN THIS CLUB YOURSELF. Get your family and friends to join also. COME TO THE BANK AND LET US EXPLAIN ANYTHING YOU WISH TO KNOW. This is the BEST way. Get the saving habit—it's a good one.

The Peoples National Bank OF FAIRMONT

What a pity she doesn't know that Resinol would clear her skin
"She would be a pretty girl, if it wasn't for that pimply, blotchy complexion!" But the regular use of Resinol Soap, aided at first by a little Resinol Ointment, would probably make it clear, fresh and charming. If a poor skin is your handicap, begin using Resinol Soap and see how quickly it improves.
Resinol Ointment and Resinol Soap usually stop itching instantly and quickly heal eczema and similar skin troubles. Sold by all druggists.